

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. Cancelled

2. (Currently Amended) The vacuum-operated trash receptacle of claim ±20 wherein said ~~at least one opening~~ plurality of apertures comprises a plurality of elongated openings provided in spaced-apart relationship with respect to each other in said liner.

3. (Currently Amended) The vacuum-operated trash receptacle of claim ±20 wherein said container is defined by a container wall and a container bottom closing one end of said container wall and wherein said vacuum-producing device is provided on said container bottom.

4. (Currently Amended) The vacuum-operated trash receptacle of claim 320 wherein said ~~at least one opening~~ comprises a plurality of openings are elongated extending in a direction between said rim and bottom provided in spaced-apart relationship with respect to each other in said liner.

5. (Currently Amended) The vacuum-operated trash receptacle of claim ±20 wherein said container is defined by a container wall

and a container bottom closing one end of said container wall and wherein said vacuum-producing device is provided on said container wall.

6. (Currently Amended) The vacuum-operated trash receptacle of claim ~~±20~~ wherein said ~~at least one opening comprises a plurality of openings~~ said apertures are provided in spaced-apart parallel relationship with respect to each other in said liner.

7. Cancelled

8. (Currently Amended) The vacuum-operated trash receptacle of claim ~~±20~~ comprising a perforated container lid for removably closing said liner and said container and wherein said container is defined by a container wall, a container bottom closing one end of said container wall and a container flange extending around the opposite end of said container wall and said liner is defined by a liner wall, a liner bottom closing one end of said liner wall, said liner bottom spaced from said container bottom to define said annulus and a liner flange provided on the opposite end of said liner wall from said liner bottom, said liner flange engaging said container flange for removably receiving said container lid and

wherein said vacuum-producing device is mounted on said container bottom.

9. (Currently Amended) The vacuum-operated trash receptacle of claim ±20 comprising a perforated container lid for removably closing said liner and said container and wherein said container is defined by a container wall, a container bottom closing one end of said container wall, a container flange extending around the opposite end of said container wall and said liner is defined by a liner wall having a liner flange, said liner wall spaced from said container wall to define said annulus and said liner flange engaging said container flange for removably receiving said container lid and wherein said vacuum-producing device is mounted on said container wall.

10.-19. Cancelled

20. (New) A vacuum-operated trash receptacle comprising:

a container having a tubular wall and an upper opening thereto through a rim of said wall and a closed bottom;

a liner having a tubular wall and having a top opening at a rim of said wall and a closed bottom and disposed for placement in said container through the opening of the container;

said liner adapted for receiving a trash bag through the opening of said liner;

said liner dimensioned for insertion within said container with said liner opening in a fixed relation to said container opening and to thereby form an annular space between said liner wall and said container wall;

said liner wall having a plurality of apertures around and down its tubular wall from a location proximate said opening to a location proximate said closed bottom, said openings communicating from the interior of said liner to said annular space when said liner is inserted into said container;

an exhaust aperture through one of said contained wall and bottom; and

means for withdrawing air from said annular space through the apertures through said exhaust aperture wherein air pressure is reduced in said annular space and the trash bag is forcefully deployed against and down said liner wall responsive to operation of said air withdrawing means.

21. (New) A liner for a vacuum-operated trash receptacle container having a tubular wall and an upper opening thereto through a rim of said wall and a closed bottom, an aperture through one of said container wall and bottom, and means for withdrawing air through the aperture, said liner comprising:

a tubular wall and having a top opening at a rim of said wall thereof and a closed bottom and disposed for placement in said container through the opening of said container;

said liner adapted for receiving a trash bag through the opening of said liner;

said liner dimensioned for insertion within said container with said liner opening in a fixed relation to said container opening and to thereby form an annular space between said liner wall and said container wall from a location proximate to the opening;

said liner wall having a plurality of apertures around and down its tubular wall, said openings communicating from the interior of said liner to said annular space when said liner is inserted into said container;

wherein in operation air pressure is reduced in said annular space by said air withdrawing means and the trash bag is

Application No. 10/822,928
Filed: April 13, 2004
TC Art Unit: 3781
Confirmation No.: 4439

forcefully deployed against said liner responsive to operation of
said air withdrawing means.